an authorization component, connected to said network manager, to transmit a first authorization code to enable set top terminals to receive a requested program;

a file server, coupled to said network manager, capable of receiving said first authorization code and a second authorization code, wherein when the requested program is scrambled, the second authorization code descrambles said scrambled requested program.

9.   (Twice Amended)   An apparatus for delivering video on demand programs to set top terminals comprising:

(a) a receiver to receive requests for video on demand programs from the set top terminals;

(b) a network manager, connected to said receiver, comprising:

a processor to process said program requests, wherein said processor includes an instruction memory and said processor comprises control software to compile, group or count said program requests;

(c) an authorization component, connected to said network manager by an interface, to transmit a first authorization code to enable the set top terminals to receive a requested program; and

(d) a file server, connected to said network manager, capable of receiving said first authorization code and a second authorization code, wherein when the requested program is scrambled, the second authorization code descrambles said scrambled requested program.

10.   (Twice Amended)   An apparatus for video on demand programs comprising:

an authorization component to receive requests for video on demand programs;
an interface connected to said authorization component;

a network manager, connected to said interface, to process said program requests; and

a file server, connected to said authorization component, capable of receiving a first authorization code to enable set top terminals to receive a requested program and a second authorization code, wherein when the requested program is scrambled, the second authorization code descrambles said scrambled requested program.

17.   (Twice Amended)   An apparatus for delivering video on demand programs to set top terminals comprising:

an authorization component to receive requests for video on demand programs from the set top terminals;

2

an interface connected to said authorization component;

a network manager, connected to said interface, comprising:

a processor to process said program requests, wherein said processor includes an instruction memory, and said processor comprises control software to compile, group or count said program requests; and

a file server, connected to said authorization component, capable of receiving a first authorization code to enable the set top terminals to receive a requested program and a second authorization code, wherein when the requested program is scrambled, the second authorization code descrambles said scrambled requested program.

25.   (Amended)   A method for delivering video on demand programming comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a request for a video on demand program from a set top terminal;

b) processing at least one received request;

c) sending a first authorization code to a file server;

d) spooling said requested program from said file server;

e) authorizing viewing or delivering of said requested program;

f) counting a period of time;

g) receiving additional requests until said period of time expires; and

h) authorizing viewing or delivering of said requested program after said period of time expires.

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 23-25 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 9, 10, 17, and 25 are amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found at least on page 26, lines 14-19 of the specification. Claims 1, 9, 10, and 17 are amended to eliminate the alternative language (or). Claim 25 is amended to incorporate allowable subject matter of original claim 21 (as indicated in paper no. 4) in independent form. The specification is amended to correct an obvious typographical error. No new matter is introduced. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because the amendments (1) place the claims in better form for appeal if needed; and (2) do not introduce any elements requiring further search by the Examiner. Hence, entry of the amendments is